

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. An image forming system comprising:  
communication means for interconnection; and  
a plurality of electrophotographic image forming  
5 apparatuses each visualizing a latent image on a latent  
image carrier generated based on input image data by means  
of developer and transferring the visualized image to a  
recording material, which are connected via said  
communication means;  
10 the image forming system having means for storing  
usage histories of the latent image carriers of the image  
forming apparatuses and having a function of selecting  
image forming apparatuses outputting the image based on  
the carrier usage history data stored in said storing  
15 means.
2. The image forming system according to claim 1,  
wherein the usage history of said latent image carrier is  
based on the number of transferred pages obtained with  
reference to an operating time or recording materials.
- 20 3. The image forming system according to claim 1,  
wherein the usage history of said latent image carrier is  
modified according to a characteristic of deterioration  
through use of each latent image carrier.
4. The image forming system according to claim 1,  
25 wherein the image forming apparatuses outputting the image  
are selected so that the usage histories of the latent  
image carriers of the image forming apparatuses are

approximately the same.

5. An image forming system comprising:

communication means for interconnection; and

a plurality of electrophotographic image forming

5 apparatuses each visualizing a latent image on a latent image carrier generated based on input image data by means of developer and transferring the visualized image to a recording material, which are connected via said communication means;

10 the image forming system having means for storing usage histories of the developer of the image forming apparatuses and having a function of selecting image forming apparatuses outputting the image based on the developer usage history data stored in said storing means.

15 6. The image forming system according to claim 5, wherein the usage history of the developer is based on the number of transferred pages obtained with reference to an operating time of a developing device, which contains the developer and supplies it to the latent image carrier, or  
20 recording materials.

7. The image forming system according to claim 5, wherein the usage history of the developer is modified according to a characteristic of deterioration through use of the developer.

25 8. The image forming system according to claim 5, wherein the image forming apparatuses outputting the image are selected so that the usage histories of the developer

are approximately the same in the image forming .  
apparatuses.

9. An image forming system comprising:

communication means for interconnection; and

5 a plurality of electrophotographic image forming  
apparatuses each visualizing a latent image on a latent  
image carrier generated based on input image data by means  
of developer and transferring the visualized image to a  
recording material, which are connected via said  
10 communication means;

the image forming system having means for storing  
usage histories after maintenance of the image forming  
apparatuses and having a function of selecting image  
forming apparatuses outputting the image based on the  
15 usage history data.

10. The image forming system according to claim 8,  
wherein the usage history after maintenance is based on  
the number of transferred pages obtained with reference to  
an operating time for image formation of the image forming  
20 apparatus or recording materials.

11. The image forming system according to claim 9,  
wherein the usage history after maintenance is modified  
according to a characteristic of deterioration through use  
of each image forming apparatus.

25 12. The image forming system according to claim 9,  
wherein the image forming apparatuses outputting the image  
are selected so that the usage histories after maintenance

are approximately the same in the image forming apparatuses.

13. An image forming system comprising:

communication means for interconnection; and

5 a plurality of electrophotographic image forming apparatuses each visualizing a latent image on a latent image carrier generated based on input image data by means of developer and transferring the visualized image to a recording material, which are connected via said

10 communication means;

the image forming system having means for storing information on average photographic densities of developer after replacement and having a function of selecting image forming apparatuses outputting the image based on the  
15 average photographic densities obtained from the information.

14. The image forming system according to claim 13, wherein the means for storing the information on the average photographic densities includes at least means for  
20 storing usage histories of the developer, means for calculating the photographic densities during image formation successively, and means for calculating the average photographic densities from the usage histories and the successively calculated photographic densities.

25 15. The image forming system according to claim 13, wherein the image forming apparatuses outputting the image are selected so that the average photographic densities

are approximately the same in the image forming apparatuses.

16. An image forming system comprising:

communication means for interconnection; and

5 a plurality of electrophotographic image forming apparatuses each visualizing a latent image on a latent image carrier generated based on input image data by means of developer and transferring the visualized image to a recording material, which are connected via said

10 communication means;

the image forming system having means for detecting amounts of remaining developer of the image forming apparatuses and means for calculating a black ratio of the image data and having a function of selecting image

15 forming apparatuses outputting the image based on the remaining developer amount data and the black ratio data.

17. The image forming system according to claim 16, wherein the image forming apparatuses outputting the image are selected so that the amounts of remaining developer  
20 after the image formation are approximately the same in the image forming apparatuses.

18. The image forming system according to claim 1, wherein the developer contains color particles.

19. The image forming system according to claim 1,  
25 wherein a part or all of the plurality of image forming apparatuses connected to each other via said communication means are of different models.

20. The image forming system according to claim 1, further comprising a display unit for displaying a list of the image forming apparatuses selected for outputting the image.

5        21. The image forming system according to claim 20, further comprising an operating unit for giving an instruction to execute the output with specifying a part or all of the image forming apparatuses displayed on said display unit.

10       22. The image forming system according to claim 1, further comprising a host device control unit for selecting the image forming apparatuses outputting the image based on one of the data.

15       23. The image forming system according to claim 22, wherein said host device control unit is incorporated in at least one of the image forming apparatuses.

20       24. The image forming system according to claim 22, wherein said host device control unit is connected to said image forming apparatuses independently of the image forming apparatuses connected to each other.